

FORM E - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

C

Form no.

110



wn Lexington

dress 8 Hancock Ave.

me John L. Norris House

esent use Residential

esent owner _____

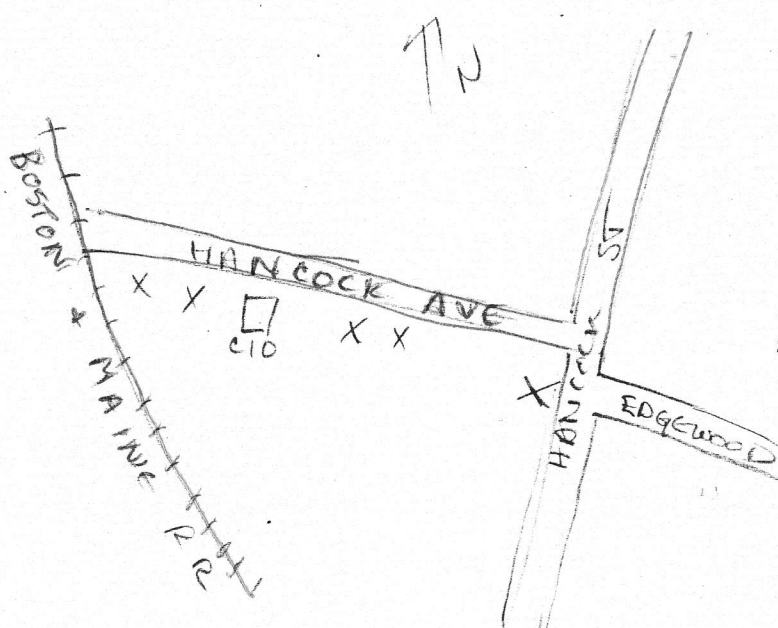
scription:

te c. 1870

Source _____

le Creek revival/
Italianate

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Barn in rear

Other features Gable end to street. Off

center front door covered by pedimented

portico supported by square piers

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street

Front steps - 15'

6. Recorded by Sally T. Scott

Organization Lex. Historical Comm.

Date Sept. 4, 1975

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

recessed panelled columns; recessed panelled corner boards.
One story bay windows at front; Hancock St. side of house (NE)
NW side of house has one story addition . House looks to be
one room wide. 2 full narrow chimneys on main section, one on
rear ell. Widely spaced heavy dentil molding at front pediment
& on NW side of house.

Barn now used as garage - 2 windows directly adjoining large
barn door. Hay loft opening above
Brick foundation.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Property Address
LEXINGTON 8 HANCOCK AVENUE

Area(s) Form No.

C	110
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was occupied (if not built) in the early 1870s by local builder and contractor John L. Norris who was responsible for constructing the other late 19th century houses on Hancock Avenue between 1872 and 1874. On November 14, 1875 the *Minute-man* reported that Norris had sold his Hancock Avenue residence with barn and an acre of land to G.W. Taylor for \$5,600.

Norris also built the Norris Block at Lexington Center and was a trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank. He went onto become the driving force behind the development of the Bloomfield Street neighborhood in the 1880s. After leaving Hancock Avenue, he later built larger, more stylish residences for himself at 1430 Massachusetts Avenue (corner of Bloomfield Street) and 1404 Massachusetts Avenue.

By 1889 the house at 8 Hancock Avenue was owned by James A. Barker, a carpenter. Barker is last listed at this address in the 1902 directory. In 1905 he sold the property including house, stable and one acre of land (*Lexington Minute-man*, Sept. 30, 1905).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, pp. 155-156.
Lexington directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-man, November 14, 1875; Sept. 30, 1905.
1889 map.

Supplement prepared by:
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